

City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

February 4, 2009
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: J. Lawrence Robinson, Jaime Blakeslee, Sean Kumar, Timothy Lovain, Kevin Posey, Jennifer Mitchell, Donna Fossum,

Commissioners Absent: William Euille,

Others Present: Del Pepper, Vice Mayor, Mark Jinks, City Manager's Office, Rich Baier, T&ES, Tom Culpepper, T&ES, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Lisa Jaatinen, T&ES, Karl Moritz, P&Z, Pat Mann, P&Z, Kasha Helget, West End Task Force, Judy Cooper, BSVA, Joanne Lepanto, Seminary Hill Association, Dave Dexter, Seminary West Association, Nancy Jennings, Seminary Hill Association, Dick Hobson, Seminary Hill Association, Charlotte Landis, ICCA.

1. Project Updates:

- a. Eisenhower Avenue Widening Project – Lisa Jaatinen, Project Manager
Lisa Jaatinen made a presentation to the Commission regarding the Eisenhower Avenue widening project. She gave a brief history and overview of the project, the pedestrian design, the objective, benefits and challenges. Staff has been working closely with VDOT who has oversight on this project that is funded through Federal, State and City funds. The total project cost is \$18 million. A public hearing will be held in late spring. The project is expected to be complete by 2012.
- b. BRAC 133 – Tom Culpepper
Tom Culpepper made a presentation on BRAC 133 and its impact on the Mark Center development. He stated the building design fits within the parameters set forth in the DSUP. His presentation showed a transit center to be built on Mark Center Drive with approximately 6 bus bays. A sequence of construction phases was presented with an expected operational date of September 15, 2011. Staff is working with Duke Realty, the Department of Defense, DASH and WAMATA on how we might re-route existing transit service. The off-site roadway improvements will be mainly on Seminary Road and Beauregard Street. The City

requested, and DOD agreed, to a ramp modification connecting the site and I-395 to relieve traffic on City streets.

c. I-95/395 HOT Lanes

Rich Baier reported that VDOT is hosting a series of public hearings on the I-395 HOT Lanes. The report will be presented to City Council for a public hearing scheduled in March. Mr. Baier spoke briefly on citizen concerns regarding the annual increase of traffic congestion. One of the concessions significant to Alexandria is the capital and operating costs for dedicated transit service (BRT) that will connect Kingstown through Van Dorn Street to Shirlington and the Pentagon.

2. Funding Reports:

a. State Transportation Funding

According to a Legislative Bulletin, new road project money will evaporate by FY '10. Priorities for the State will be maintenance, the interstate commitments, and completing existing projects. The City's FY '09 funding will remain intact. The FY 2010 – 2014 funding plan was for replacement buses for DASH.

b. Federal Economic Stimulus Package

Mr. Baier indicated that the report is rather lengthy and will be placed on-line on the Transportation Commission webpage. The Senate is still considering amendments to the stimulus package. They rejected an amendment to augment money for infrastructure. Commission members were given a spreadsheet reflecting the federal funding.

3. Planning Update:

a. Landmark Van Dorn – Pat Mann, Planning & Zoning

Pat Mann presented the Commission with an update of staff's presentation to the Planning Commission. He reported that the Planning Commission approved this plan on February 3, 2009. Transportation issues addressed included the construction and timing of the Duke Street dedicated transit lanes and information on transit improvements. Staff recommends a point-to-point shuttle to the mall, and local circulator buses.

4. Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program – Tom Culpepper

Tom Culpepper discussed the Transportation Commission's task of maintaining oversight of the long range plan (LRP) and transportation improvement plan (TIP). The LRP serves as the City's transportation "to-do" list and the TIP serves as the short-term transportation workplan. The Commission discussed what type of process they would use to maintain the list, prioritize projects, and evaluate projects and funding. Two subcommittees were formed, one to look at prioritization schemes to be served by Donna Fossum and Kevin Posey and a subcommittee looking at process to be served by Jennifer Mitchell and Sean Kumar. Staff will provide the Commission with additional resources for consideration at the March meeting.

5. Minutes of November 5, 2008 and January 7, 2009

The minutes of the November 5, 2008 and January 7, 2009 Transportation Commission were presented and approved.

Public Comments

Annabelle Fisher commented on the VDOT HOT lane project. Ms. Fisher raised concerns about prioritization for the Transportation Improvement Program and public involvement in that process.